

Spin One's Words

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Time Idioms

Spin one's wheels—to be active but to accomplish nothing

Our new office manager needs to get organized and get some work done. For two weeks, she's just been spinning her wheels.

Put one's shoulder to the wheel—to get busy, to contribute

In order to accomplish our goals and succeed, everyone in the company has to put their shoulder to the wheel.

Get the show on the road—to get started

The runners waited in the rain at the starting line of the race. "Let's get this show on the road," shouted one of them to the race officials.

Go around in circles—to be confused, to waste time

I went around in circles all afternoon looking for the library. By the time I arrived, it was closed.

Work Idioms

Wheel and deal—to negotiate

Karen had to wheel and deal to get the new contract signed.

Reinvent the wheel—to do unnecessary work, to do work that has been done before

When we decided to write a new grammar textbook, our first goal was to write something original and innovative. We did not want to reinvent the wheel.

Patience Idioms

Hold your horses—to stay calm or be patient when someone else wants to hurry

The rehearsal was delayed, and the other actors waited impatiently for the two stars to arrive. "Hold your horses," said the director. "We'll start as soon as everyone is here."

Go/come along for the ride—to be present for an activity without taking part

Although she didn't really enjoy basketball, Carol went along for the ride when her friends offered her a free ticket to the championship game.

Direction Idioms

On the road—traveling from place to place

Jack no longer lives in this area. He's on the road somewhere now.

Wheel around—to turn around quickly, to change direction

He wheeled around suddenly and returned to his office when he remembered the diagram for the new building was still on his desk.